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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/820,209

04/07/2004

Richard Lunak

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07/16/2007

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EXAMINER

ST CYR, DANIEL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/16/2007

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/820,209

Applicant(s)

LUNAK ET AL

Examiner

Daniel St.Cyr

Art Unit

2876

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --****Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
  - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 May 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This is in response to the applicant response filed 5/07/07.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 15-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frederick et al. (US 6,112,502; hereinafter "Frederick") in view of Lift et al. (US 5,797,515; hereinafter "Lift").

Re claims 15-17, 21-25 and 29-30: Frederick teaches a method including: inputting information into a handheld device (reading device 542 in fig. 55) from indicia (358, 364, 366, 370 in fig. 40; "The reading device 348 is preferably a device for reading machine readable indicia such as bar code" (col. 40, lines 62-63)) on an open shelving system, the information identifying an item to be restocked to the open shelving system ("Alternatively, when all the medical items have been removed from the storage location the user may operate the reading device to read the further indicia adjacent the storage location representative of the condition that all the medical items in the location have been depleted..." col. 6, lines 53-57; col. 41, lines 29-31) (col. 56, lines 51-58; col. 6, lines 12-67; col. 41, line 44 through col. 42, line 53);

inputting a current quantity of the items to be restocked to the handheld device corresponding to the input information (col. 6, lines 53-67);

transferring the information and current quantity from the handheld device ("These transaction messages are sent to other components of the system..." col. 6, lines 63-67) (figs. 40 and 55; col. 56, line 1 through col. 57, line 49);

automatically comparing the current quantity to a par level of the items to be restocked, for example, Frederick teaches in col. 6, lines 41-67 that

"The storage locations for items that are not tracked to patients are preferably marked to show a desired level or quantity (a "par value") of medical items that should be kept in the storage location. If the level of medical items in the location drops and a user observes that it is below par value, the user may scan the indicia with the reading device. The reading device is preferably configured to treat the scanning of indicia corresponding to a storage location, absent previously inputting data related to a user or a patient, as indicative of a quantity condition at the location which corresponds to the storage location being below par value.

Alternatively, when all the medical items have been removed from the storage location the user may operate the reading device to read the further indicia adjacent the storage location representative of the condition that all the medical items in the location have been depleted. Such a condition is an alternative quantity condition, which causes different signals to be generated by the system from those corresponding the first quantity condition. Transaction messages comprised of signals are produced by the reading device corresponding to the different quantity conditions. These transaction messages are sent to other components of the system, and in the case of messages which indicate that a storage location is below par value or depleted, are responded to by restocking the storage location with an additional quantity of medical items."

wherein "the user may scan the indicia with the reading device. The reading device is preferably configured to treat the scanning of indicia corresponding to a storage location, absent previously inputting data related to a user or a patient, as indicative of a quantity condition at the location which corresponds to the storage location being below par value." (col. 6, lines 46-52), that is the indicia is read by the reading device; then the information, which is read from the indicia, is processed/compared with the par value stored within the reading-device/computer/component, which is "automatically comparing the current quantity to a par level of the items to be restocked" as set forth in the claim; and generating a restocking package in response to the automatic comparing. For example,

"Transaction messages comprised of signals are produced by the reading device corresponding to the different quantity conditions. These transaction messages are sent to other components of the system, and in the case

of messages which indicate that a storage location is below par value or depleted, are responded to by restocking the storage location with an additional quantity of medical items." (col. 6, lines 60-67; col. 6, lines 41-67).

Although, Frederick teaches "automatically comparing the current quantity to a par level of the items to be restocked" by having a user observes that if the items on the open shelf are below par value, the user may scan the indicia with the reading device. Frederick does not specifically teach "automatically comparing, in a computing device, the current quantity to a par level of the items."

Lift teaches automatically comparing, in a computing device, the current quantity to a par level for the item ("if a proper dispensing has occurred, the transaction is recorded to the data base 407, and the computer determines whether inventory is at or below a predetermined restock value 408... (col. 18, lines 20-41))

It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the art to automate Frederick's step of "automatically comparing the current quantity..." by having a user to observe and scan the indicia if the items are below the par level to "automatically comparing in the computing device the current quantity..." as taught by Lift in order to automating the manual activity of the user. Such modification would have been an obvious expedient from Frederick's teaching. Furthermore, automating a manual activity by providing an automatic or mechanical means is not sufficient to distinguish over the prior art, In re Venner 262 F.2d.91, 95, 120 USPQ 193, 194 (CCPA 1958) MPEP 2144.04[R1] III.

Re claims 18 and 26: Frederick teaches the transferring by transmitting the information over a wireless link (col. 45, lines 40-45; col. 8, lines 17-37).

Re claims 19 and 27: Frederick teaches the transferring includes inserting the handheld device into a docking station (cradle 354 in fig. 40) located proximate to the open shelving

system ("The reading device is eventually again placed in communication with the network 328. This may be done by returning it to its cradle..." (col. 54, lines 53-56)) (col. 41, lines 1-23; col. 47, lines 1-12).

Re claims 20 and 28: Frederick teaches the method further including selecting information identifying an item not represented by an indicia (e.g., keyboard, mouse, touch screen, Spoken word recognition, etc (col. 19, lines 28-33)) on the open shelving system and inputting to the handheld device a current quantity of the item to be stocked in the open shelving unit (col. 19, lines 20-37; col. 17, lines 21-29; col. 40, lines 16-31).

#### *Response to Arguments*

4. Applicant's arguments filed 5/07/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. (See examiner remarks).

#### **REMARKS:**

In response to the applicant's argument the reference Frederick et al do not disclose inputting specific quantity, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Frederick et al disclose:

It should be understood that for storage locations which hold medical items which are counted and/or tracked by unit, the computer may calculate, and the data store may include, data representative of the number of units remaining in each storage location. However, it is also possible to include among or on the units of medical items machine readable indicia, which can be used to indicate that the number of medical items in the storage location has fallen to a level where restocking is required." (see col. 43, lines 13-25).

The applicant's argument is not persuasive. With respect to the limitation "automatically comparing the quantity to determine if restocking is required, Frederick teaches that the number of units is inputted into the system in order to verify whether the quantity has fallen to level requiring restocking, the comparing step is included so as to determine whether to restock or not.

The reference (Frederick et al), as modified by Lift et al renders the claims obvious.

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

#### Note

5. Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

#### Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

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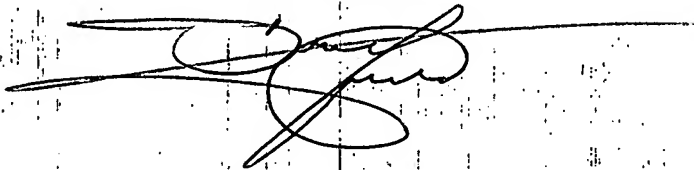
however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel St. Cyr whose telephone number is 571-272-2407. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached on 571-272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Daniel St. Cyr  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2876



DS  
June 27, 2007